

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at Page 11, line 16 with the following revised paragraph:

Further, the tapered jig 3 has through-holes 33 formed therein. The through-holes 33 are extending from the portion facing the opening of each cell 12 of the honeycomb-like molded article 10 to a surface of the tapered jig 3 other than the surface opposed to the molded article 10. The through-holes 33 include both those penetrating from the tip of the protrusion 32 to the rear surface 34 (the surface opposite to the surface facing the molding die) and those penetrating from top surface 350 to the rear surface of the tapered jig 3. Therefore, the protrusion 32 has a substantially tubular shape. In the illustrated embodiment, the protrusions 32 extend to a plane of top surface 350 of the tapered jig 3.